Supply of another 30mgd begins

Water crisis in city due to power failure

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Jan 1: Water supply to different parts of the city remained affected for the third consecutive day on Friday due to power failure at the pumping stations of Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB).

According to a KWSB spokesman, Buffer Zone and its adjoining localities could not be supplied their actual quota of water on Friday as there was no electricity at the North-East Karachi pumping station for two hours.

Moreover, complaints of power failure, although of shorter durations, were also received from other pumping stations of the city, and as result, normal schedule of water supply could not be maintained in some other localities, he added.

Meanwhile, the city started getting an additional supply of 30 million gallons of water per day from the K-2 (Karachi Water Supply Scheme) project from Friday.

Shortly after receiving the remaining 30 mgd of water from the 100-mgd K-2 project at the North-East Karachi pumping station, it was diverted to various localities to improve their water supply situation, the KWSB sources said, adding that the real impact of this additional quantity would be felt in a couple of days.

He further stated that with the 30 mgd additional water, various sectors of North Karachi would be supplied about 12 mgd while the remaining quantity was being used to enhance the quota of other parts of the city.

Besides, a reasonable quantity of the additional water would be supplied to Baldia and Orangi townships after a couple of days, he added.

However, some areas such as Malir Extension Colony and Malir Colony are rarely supplied piped water. Several areas in these sprawling localities have been facing water famine for more than six months.

"When we faced water scarcity problem in the summer months we attributed it, to a considerable extent, to the dry and hot weather. But, we fail to comprehend this regular water famine in rainy and winter seasons.

"On the one hand, the home taps remain dry while, on the other, plenty of water is available through tankers, to those who can afford to purchase the precious commodity at Rs250-Rs300 per tanker. Considering all this, we cannot help conclude that it is very much a man-made crisis," residents deplored.

They said in their water-starved localities people fetching water in cans and household utensils from their neighbours' houses and nearby mosques is a common scene.

A similar situation prevails in Orangi Township.

The authorities have not made any effort to mitigate our sufferings even in the fasting month of Ramazan. Even in this month from mosques in our localities announcement is made almost daily that Namazis should come after making ablution at home, residents said.